

Message Text

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53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-02 CAB-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 AID-05 /055 W

----- 121635

R 201540Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3494

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS CASABLANCA 0373

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, TS, AG, IV, SG, MO, CA

SUBJ: CIVAIR: AEROSPACE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER RECENT CIVAIR
DEVELOPMENTS MOROCCO

BRUSSELS AND LAGOS FOR FAA

COMMERCE PASS COHEN

REF: (A) RABAT 1855 (NOTAL); (B) RABAT 2265 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SALES OPPORTUNITIES: TELESOPING PASSENGER
RAMPS, BAGGAGE CONVEYORS AND CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION FOR
NEW CASABLANCA AIRPORT PASSENGER TERMINAL. PURCHASE DECISION
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT REMAINS WITH MILITARY. ROYAL
AIR MAROC WILL PROBABLY PURCHASE MORE THAN FIVE 727S BY 1980.
ROYAL AIR INTER INTERESTED IN FOKKER F-28. GENERAL AVIATION
MARKET IN MOROCCO CONTINUES STAGNANT DUE GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS.
BIRTH AIR MAGHREB STILL IN FUTURE, IF AT ALL. END SUMMARY.

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2. DURING RECENT WEEKS REGIONAL CIVIL AIR ATTACHE, AFRICA

(RCAA), HAD SERIES MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE CIVIL AIR OFFICIALS AS FOLLOWS:

-(A) CIVIL AVIATION: IN ABSENCE GOM'S DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR. MOHAMED MEKOUAR, RCAA MET WITH MR. ABDEJAWAD DAOUDI, CHIEF OF CIVIL AERONAUTICAL SERVICE, WHO STATED THAT ONLY MAJOR CIVIL AVIATION PROJECT UNDERWAY (OR PLANNED) WAS CONSTRUCTION NINE TO TEN MILLION DOLLAR PASSENGER TERMINAL AT CASABLANCA/NOUASSER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. MR. DAOUDI REVEALED THAT HIS DIRECTORATE WAS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING AMERICAN TELESOPING PASSENGER LOADING RAMPS, BAGGAGE CONVEYORS AND CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION EQUIPMENT FOR TERMINAL. CONTACT FOR AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS FOREGOING EQUIPMENT: MR. ABDELJAWAD DAOUDI, CHEF DE SERVICE AERONAUTIQUE CIVILE, DIRECTION DE L'AIR, B.P. 542, RABAT-CHELLAH, MOROCCO. TERMINAL SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION MID-1977. IN RESPONSE TO RCAA QUERY, MR. DAOUDI STATED PURCHASE DECISION SOPHISTICATED AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT CONTINUES TO REST WITH MILITARY.

-(B) FUTURE PLANS ROYAL AIR MAROC (AT) RCAA MET WITH MR. SAID BEN ALI, AT'S DIRECTOR GENERAL, WHO STATED HE WILL INCREASE AT'S FREQUENCIES TO NEW YORK AND MONTREAL (SEE REF A) TO FOUR AS APRIL 1, 1976. MR. SAID BEN ALI AMPLIFIED PARA 3, REF A BY STATING THAT IF TRAFFIC CONTINUES INCREASE PRESENT RATE AT WILL BYU MORE 727S THAN PRESENTLY PLANNED. AT IS IN PROCESS STUDYING SERVICE TO SOUTH AMERICA (REF A) IF SUITABLE POOLING ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. REGARDING PLANNED ROUTE EXPANSION BEYOND DAKAR TO ABIDJAN (REF A) RCAA QUERIED AT OFFICIAL ABOUT FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS BETWEEN THESE POINTS. MR. BEN ALI SAID HE THOUGHT THESE RIGHTS WOULD BE GRANTED BUT IF NOT THIS SERVICE WOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED. RCAA CONCURS PARA 5, PARA 5, REF A.

-(C) AIR MAGHREB: DURING MEETING WITH MR. SAID BEN ALI (SEE PREVIOUS PARA) RCAA ASKED FOR STATUS THIS PLANNED CONSORTIUM OF ROYAL AIR MARO C, TUNIS AIR AND AIR ALGERIE. AT'S DIRECTOR GENERAL APPEARED TO BE SLIGHTLY EMBARRASSED BY RCAA QUERY THIS SUBJECT AND REPLIED THAT QUOTE AIR MAGHREB IS NOT DEAD, IT JUST KEEPS ON SLEEPING. UNQUOTE. RCAA COMMENT: OTHER SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED FACT THAT BIRTH AIR AIR MAGHREB STILL FAR IN FUTURE, IF AT ALL. MOROCCO, OF THREE NATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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INVOLVED, APPEARS TO BE LEAST INTERESTED THIS PROJECT.

-(D) GENERAL AVIATION: MR. HASSAN LYOUSSI, PIPER DEALER FOR MOROCCO AND DIRECTOR AGRICOLAIR, MOROCCO'S LARGEST GENERAL AVIATION (GA) MAINTENANCE BASE DISCUSSED GA MARKET IN MOROCCO WITH RCAA REVEALING GOVERNMENT'S IMPORT AND OTHER DUTIES ON GA AIRCRAFT PLUS LAW PROHIBITING ANY AIRCRAFT LARGER THAN SIX PLACE BE USED FOR AIR CHARTER EFFECTIVELY PREVENTING DEVELOPMENT SALES GA AIRCRAFT IN COUNTRY.

OTHER FACTORS ARE SHORTAGE TRAINED MECHANICS COVERAGE, IDEAL FLYING WEATHER, LARGE NUMBER AIRFIELDS AND RAPIDLY DEVELOPING TOURIST INDUSTRY, BUT FOR FOREGOING RESTRICTIONS, GA OPERATIONS AND SALES COULD DEVELOP SIGNIFICANTLY NEAR FUTURE. GA AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS SHOULD ATTEMPT, THROUGH THEIR LOCAL DEALER, EDUCATE ROYAL AIR MAROC, ROYAL AIR INTER, AND MINISTRY OF TOURISM BENEFITS ACCRUING ALL IF AIR CHARTER OPERATIONS BE ALLOWED DEVELOP FREELY.

-(E) ROYAL AIR INTER: RCAA MET WITH MR. HASSAN YACoubi-SOUSSANE, DIRECTOR GENERAL, ROYAL AIR INTER (RN), MOROCCO'S INTERNAL CARRIER, WHO STATED THAT HIS CARRIER WOULD BEGIN EXPERIMENTAL JET SERVICE (WITH CARAVELLE LEASED FROM ROYAL AIR MAROC) ON ITS ROUTES ON NOVEMBER 1, 1975, FOR PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS AT WHICH FOLLOWING COURSES ACTION TO TAKE: (A) CONTINUE CARAVELLE SERVICE, (B) PURCHASE USED 737 OR DC-9, (C) PARTIME USE ROYAL AIR MAROC NEW 737 OR (D) PURCHASE FOKKER F-28. MR. YACoubi-SOUSANNE STATED HE VERY INTERESTED IN F-28 WHICH, IN HIS OPINION, APPEARS TO BE PERFECT SIZE FOR HIS NEEDS. RCAA POINTED OUT THIS AIRCRAFT LIMITED PASSENGER AND CARGO SPACE AND WAS SAME PRICE AS 737 OR DC-9 EITHER WHICH HAD MUCH GREATER CAPACITY THAN F-28. RN WILL EXPAND ITS ROUTES ON NOVEMBER 1 TO NADOR AND TANTAN AND ON APRIL 1, 1976, TO IFNI AND TARFAYA. RCAA COMMENT: RECOMMEND THAT BOEING AND DOUGLAS CONTACT MR. YACoubi-SOUSSANE FOR PURCHASE COMBATING INTENSIVE SALES PROMOTION OBVIOUSLY BEING MADE BY FOKKER. BRUBECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARKETS, COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CASABL00373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750181-0008
From: CASABLANCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750532/aaaabczk.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 RABAT 1855, 75 (NOTA RABAT 2265
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 DEC 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: AEROSPACE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER RECENT CIVAIR DEVELOPMENTS MOROCCO
TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, TS, AG, IV, SG, MO, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006